

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CONGRATULATIONS TO BUDDY BUTLER AND NIKKI HENSLEY

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I wanted to take this opportunity to congratulate a Kentucky couple, Buddy Butler and Nikki Hensley. They were recently picked to receive a "Destination Wedding" by viewers of NBC's Today Show. They competed for the free wedding package against three other couples, and were selected to receive a celebrity wedding, which will be broadcast on television.

The couple met in June of 2003, however, soon after Buddy was shipped off for a six-month tour to Iraq. Buddy joined the U.S. Army after the tragic events of 9/11 determined to help his country. He was just back from Korea when he met Nikki at a cousin's wedding. The couple remained faithful to each other during Buddy's deployment and decided to marry upon his return from Iraq.

Couples such as Buddy and Nikki are the basis for good family values in our country. I wish them luck with their celebrity wedding in November and hope for them a strong marriage in the future. Kentucky is proud of them and will be watching their big day.●

DR. CECIL L. "CHIP" MURRAY

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the Rev. Dr. Cecil L. "Chip" Murray, who is retiring after 37 years of distinguished service with the First African Methodist Episcopal Church of Los Angeles.

Dr. Murray is a man of great passion and vision who has inspired his congregation to go "beyond the walls" of the church to help the broader community. Under his leadership, volunteers from First AME Los Angeles have changed thousands of lives for the better.

When Dr. Murray was first assigned to First AME in 1977, his new church family had 300 active members. Today the congregation has more than 18,000 members. Led by Dr. Murray, the church ministry fills the sanctuary with an awe-inspiring spiritual worship service that draws people of all faiths from far and wide.

While tending to his congregation's spiritual needs, Dr. Murray has also led them to look beyond the walls of the church at those less fortunate than themselves. Each member of the congregation is asked to join one of 40 task forces addressing community needs such as health, homelessness, substance abuse, emergency food and clothing, general and specialized housing, tutoring, employment services, and entrepreneurial training.

As he heads into a well-deserved retirement, Dr. Murray will receive accolades and appreciation from a grateful congregation and community. I wish to join them in expressing my deep appreciation for his great life's work and my

very best wishes for the future. I am sure that even in retirement, Dr. Murray will continue to work wonders and inspire others for many years to come.●

NATIONAL ASSISTED LIVING WEEK

• Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, next week, September 12 through 18, is the tenth annual National Assisted Living Week. The theme this year is "Caring for Our Heritage," and encourages residents, families, staff and the community to share their heritage as a means of understanding the diverse backgrounds that form a community and our Nation.

Beginning annually on Grandparents' Day, this honorary week spotlights the role played by assisted living professionals in caring for the nearly one million of our Nation's elderly and disabled. Assisted living provides a home-like environment in which individuals who do not need the level of care provided by nursing homes receive help in order to continue to live independently. The need for this approach will only grow as our Nation ages. I am pleased that my State of Oregon has been a leader in developing the assisted living concept. Caregivers in assisted living are central to this evolution in care and are key to assuring its success by providing support to both residents and families.

National Assisted Living Week was created in 1995 by the National Center for Assisted Living. This year, for the first time, it is being celebrated in conjunction with the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging and the Assisted Living Federation of America. National Assisted Living Week emphasizes the importance of this service which has grown 50 percent nationally in the last 5 years.●

HONORING RICHARD E. "DICK" KIPPER

• Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to Richard E. "Dick" Kipper, an extraordinary leader in the fight against Alzheimer's disease. In November, Dick will complete his term as National Board Chair of the Alzheimer's Association, a position he has held for two years and which caps nearly a decade of commitment to the cause of creating a world without Alzheimer's disease.

Like so many others, Dick joined the fight against Alzheimer's after the disease touched his family. Dick lost his beloved father to Alzheimer's. But because of his efforts, future generations will be better off.

Dick has played a vital part in helping the Alzheimer's Association achieve its strategic goals of advancing research, enhancing care and support and raising public awareness. He has logged thousands of miles traveling across the country and devoted countless hours on behalf of the Alzheimer's

Association. Here are just a few of his accomplishments.

Dick Kipper first joined the Alzheimer's Association's National Board in 1996 and quickly rose through the ranks to assume significant leadership positions. He chaired the National Board's Development Committee, was elected vice-chair of the National board, and served on the board's Diversity and Inclusion, Finance and Chapter Committees. He also spearheaded the effort to mobilize the board and chapters in support of the Association's "billion dollar research goal."

Under Dick's guidance, the Alzheimer's Association has led the fight for increased research funding and launched a new campaign to change the way people think about Alzheimer's disease. Last year, the Association dedicated nearly \$16 million to its peer-reviewed research grants program and initiated a "Research Roundtable" partnership with pharmaceutical companies to develop strategies for generating and sharing new information designed to accelerate progress in research. In July of this year, the Alzheimer's Association sponsored the 9th International Conference on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders, the largest gathering of Alzheimer researchers in history. More than 4,200 scientists from around the world shared findings from 2,000 studies showcasing the newest treatment advances in Alzheimer's disease and steps toward prevention. Dick's advocacy for increased research funding has also brought him to Washington each spring for the last three years to lobby Congress to increase federal funding for Alzheimer's research to \$1 billion.

Helping caregivers and family members understand that they are not alone in the fight against Alzheimer's disease and that there is hope on the horizon are other signature accomplishments of the Alzheimer's Association under Dick's leadership. In February, the Alzheimer's Association revealed a new brand identity, a redesigned website and its "Maintain Your Brain" campaign to educate Americans about Alzheimer's disease. The Association also established a new advisory council to address critical issues related to prevention, diagnosis and imaging, disease progression, and improved treatments. Dick's leadership was instrumental in guiding the Alzheimer's Association through these projects.

In addition to being an outstanding leader in the Alzheimer community, Dick is also an accomplished businessman. In 1967 he co-founded AFSA Data Corporation, a student loan servicing company. After Fleet Financial Group acquired AFSA in 1986, Dick served as chairman of the board and chief executive officer. At his retirement in 1990, the company employed more than 1,000 people and had annual revenues that exceeded \$65 million. He also was co-owner, president and CEO of Major Legal Services, a multimillion-dollar